

# Trail Blazers cont'd from pg 1



Dr. Danny Jacobs, President, OHSU

- **Dr. Miles Davis, President – Linfield College**  
*First African American President in Linfield's 161-Year History*
- **Michelle J. DePass, President & CEO – Meyer Memorial Trust**  
*First African-American Chief Executive of One of Oregon's Largest Philanthropic Organizations*
- **Jo Ann Hardesty – Portland City Commissioner**  
*First African American Woman Elected to the Portland City Council*
- **Dr. Danny Jacobs, President – Oregon Health & Sciences University (OHSU)**  
*First African American President in OHSU History*
- **Justice Adrienne Nelson – Oregon Supreme Court**  
*Oregon's First African American Supreme Court Justice*
- **Chief Danielle Outlaw – Portland Police Bureau**  
*Portland's First African American Woman Chief of Police*

exploration and mentoring. The limited-edition installment of the Trail Blazers Gameday Poster Series on Feb. 5 will also connect to the night's celebration featuring a production by Portland artist Edmund Holmes. For each home game, unique designs from local artists depicting that specific NBA match-up can be purchased for \$12 at Rip City Clothing Co., with proceeds from the poster sales benefitting



Michelle J. DePass, President & CEO – Meyer Memorial Trust

the Trail Blazers Foundation. Fans already holding tickets for the Feb. 5 game who would also like access to the pregame reception and provide support for iUrban Teen should call Trail Blazers ticket representatives at (503) 963-3944 for special assistance.

# Program cont'd from pg 1

Meeting twice per week for two months, participants of "Your Street, Your Voice" will focus on designing within Portland's lower Albina neighborhood.

**“As progressive as Portland has been in some of its urban planning, it's also historically ignored a lot of marginalized communities**

“As progressive as Portland has been in some of its urban planning, it's also historically ignored a lot of marginalized communities,” Swank said. “The

Albina neighborhood is the paramount indication of this, where the Rose Quarter and the I-5 blasted through this historically Black neighborhood.”

He added that the practice of razing racially diverse communities is imbedded into the fabric of planning industries throughout history. Change is much needed.

And to do so, “Your Street, Your Voice” is removing obstacles and incentivizing students – each will receive a \$250 stipend for completing the program.

Students are not expected to be artists or designers. Rather, organizers are seeking young people who are passionate about both their city and how aspects like gentrification, economic growth, and climate change affect it.

Using a seven-block radius in lower Albina as a model, participants will

identify a social issue – from housing or community to climate change or energy – and then select a site within the neighborhood. With creative computer software and 3D printing, the goal is to design a building on the site that helps solve the issue.

Swank said the program's goals are closely linked to the collaborative planning project Albina Vision, which aims to right the wrongs of displaced Black residents while re-envisioning the neighborhood as more equitable and livable.

Students are encouraged to apply to “Your Street, Your Voice” before the Jan. 31 deadline. Visit <http://www.thecenterpdx.org/welead-after-school-program>.



Portland high school students can apply to the after-school program “Your Street, Your Voice” by Jan. 31.



# Paul Knauls Celebrates 88th Birthday

Dozens of guests stopped by a celebration for Geneva's Shear Perfection on NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. last week as Paul Knauls Sr. – also well known in the community as the honorary mayor of Northeast Portland – celebrated his 88th birthday Jan. 22. The event was organized by Deborah Hodges with support from Self Enhancement Inc. Hodges has known Knauls for years and walked door to door with fliers inviting local business owners and neighbors to stop in and say hello.

# Kúkátónón cont'd from pg 1

fornia-Berkeley, who studies the social and psychological roots of inequality.

Okonofua's presentation, “When Bias and Threat Persistently Interact: A Holistic Approach to Understand the Lingering Effects of Stereotypes,” will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 8 at Self Enhancement Inc., 3920 North Kerby Avenue, is part of an effort to be more vocal in the community, said executive director Krystal Ngene.

“At Kukatonon we've undergone a lot of structural change and are transitioning to be more vocal in the community,” Ngene told *The Skanner*.

The idea for the event came out of a series of discussions with community members about systemic issues in the education system. One issue that came up again and again was the school-to-prison pipeline – the disproportionate tendency for youth of color to become incarcerated due to aggressive discipline by schools and governments.

“We said, ‘Why don't we have this conversation that's been coming up in Portland?’” Ngene said.

Okonofua's work includes research about teacher-student relationships that result in racial disparities in disciplinary action – as well as possible interventions that might mitigate the school-to-prison pipeline. He recently

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won the Cialdini Award, and is also currently working through research grants from Google, Character Lab, and SPARQ. He has been featured on MSNBC and in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, among other media outlets.

Kúkátónón Children's African Dance Troupe was founded 35 years ago within the Portland Public School system to provide culturally specific services for African American children and their families.

“We wanted to dedicate this year, particularly, at getting back to why we were founded. We realized that as we grow, we weren't as engaged as we would like to be. We know that there are barriers and obstacles. Let's figure out how we can overcome those together,” Ngene said.

The organization will also hold a resource fair Feb. 16, and is still accepting troupe members. Ngene is hopeful the community discussion will be the beginning of something larger.

“I would hope they can come away with some answers and a really solid plan. Our children are not protected in an environment where they will learn to contribute to society,” Ngene said. “Our children, they're innocent in this. Once you involve them in the prison to pipeline system, it tends to follow you throughout your life.”